

4/15/2018

#2 David Saba

Michigan's "BSE" Impact on Applicant Pool for Alternative Teacher Certification Candidates

The [Michigan Teachers of Tomorrow](#) (MTOT) alternative teacher certification program was approved – in accordance with Michigan state law – by the Michigan Department of Education last summer, 2017. After approval, MTOT began receiving hundreds of program inquiries from prospective second career teacher candidates. **The purpose of the program is to train these candidates to help fill the large teacher shortages found throughout Michigan.** However, after MTOT started operating a major and unnecessary barrier to entry into the training program for these teacher candidates emerged: the state required "Basic Skills Exam (BSE)" became the SAT (a college admissions test) in November 2017. Alternative teacher certification candidates are required by law to already be college graduates so passing the SAT as a requirement to enter the program is counterintuitive.

Problem: Requiring second career prospective teacher candidates to take the SAT before being admitted to an alternative teacher certification program is unnecessary and overly burdensome for each of the following reasons:

1. The Michigan "Basic Skills Exam" is actually the new SAT which is not a "basic skills exam," rather it is an exam used by college admissions offices as part of their consideration of prospective candidates' admission to undergraduate studies. Alternative teacher certification candidates have already graduated from college with a Bachelor's degree or higher so taking a college admissions test to enter a post-graduate program is counterintuitive.
2. Presumably higher education institutions in Michigan and throughout the United States would enthusiastically claim that their graduates by way of earning a college degree have already demonstrated "basic skills."
3. According to the College Board's website, the SAT has only seven (7) administration dates per year – all on Saturdays. The average age of MTOT's alternative teacher certification candidates is thirty two (32) many of whom have families and jobs so taking a Saturday off to take the SAT is a burden, possibly embarrassing and again counterintuitive – evidenced by the following recent quote (in Detroit News) from a current teacher seeking alternative certification, "I have to go take the test sitting next to my students in the high school."
4. According to the College Board's website, the SAT cost is \$46 which is an unnecessary cost burden to alternative teacher certification candidates since they have college degrees and thus demonstrated mastery of basic skills already.
5. The alternative teacher candidate must pass the content areas exams (e.g. English, math, science, etc.) for each subject in which they wish to teach before entering the classroom, so they must still demonstrate mastery of their subject area(s). Requiring these content area exams makes sense whereas the BSE requirement does not.

Impact of current BSE requirement: MTOT candidate data as of 02/08/18:

- 1,126 applicants in just six months but only 17 candidates (1.5%) admitted to program thus far
- 146 of the applicants have passed all other MTOT and state mandated program entry requirements (i.e. have a BA or higher, 3.0 GPA, etc.) but only 17 of them have completed the BSE portion.
- 19% (213 of the candidates) report to have a Master's degree or higher
- 35% report to be interested in secondary education only
- 31% report to be interested in STEM or bilingual education
- 41% report they have worked in a Michigan school or have an offer from one

Solution: Remove the BSE requirement for alternative teacher certification programs while maintaining the requirement to pass the content area exams for the subjects in which they desire to teach.

Result of making the change: Michigan schools throughout the state by the next school year (2018-19) will have hundreds of more certified teachers to choose from to fill teacher vacancies or expand course offerings at their schools.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
TEACHER CERTIFICATION CODE

(By authority conferred on the superintendent of public instruction by sections 1531, 1531i, 1531k, 1535a, and 1539b of 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1531, MCL 380.1531i, MCL 380.1531k, MCL 380.1535a, and MCL 380.1539b, and Executive Reorganization Order Nos. 1996-6 and 1996-7, MCL 388.993 and 388.994)

PART 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

R 390.1101 Definitions.

Rule 1. As used in this code:

(a) "Alternative route program provider" means an entity that has been approved by the superintendent of public instruction to provide teacher certification alternative route programs under section 1531i of 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1531i.

(b) "Annual CTE authorization" means an authorization issued under R 390.1165 that was previously known as an annual occupational authorization.

(c) "Annual district provided professional development" means Michigan annual district provided professional development required by section 1527 of 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1527.

(d) "Certificate endorsement" means a discipline area that a teacher is authorized to teach at specific grade levels based on completion of an appropriate program and passing the appropriate state teacher discipline area examination.

(e) "Course of study" means a cohesive, standards-based planned program that provides knowledge and skill for specialization in a discipline area or areas and supports the practice of teaching or the professional career development of the teacher.

(f) "CTE" means career and technical education and includes vocational and occupational education.

(g) "Department" means the Michigan department of education unless otherwise indicated.

(h) "Discipline area" means a content area, a subject area, or an education field in which an individual may be certified or endorsed.

(i) "Education-related professional learning" means an educational opportunity intended to improve a teacher's practice and capacity to perform the work within the profession of education and is categorized as one or more of the following:

(i) Satisfactory college semester credit hours at a regionally accredited college or university, with one semester credit hour being equivalent to 25 education-related professional learning hours.

(ii) State continuing education clock hours.

(iii) Annual district provided professional development hours.

(4) An applicant who has completed an alternative route program approved by an appropriate out-of-state agency may present evidence of successful completion of that program and a valid standard level teaching certificate from that state.

(5) Teacher preparation programs completed in foreign countries shall be evaluated by an organization approved by the United States Department of Education and by the superintendent of public instruction in determining eligibility for certification.

(6) The superintendent of public instruction may issue a nonrenewable, 1-year temporary teacher employment authorization to an individual who satisfies the requirements of section 1531(16) of 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1531(16). Such individual shall hold a teaching certificate issued by another state, by a United States territory, or by a Canadian province that satisfies standards established by the department.

(7) The superintendent of public instruction may issue a Michigan teaching certificate under section 1531(6) of 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1531(6), to an individual holding a teaching certificate issued by another state, by a United States territory, or by a Canadian province that satisfies standards established by the department. If the individual satisfies all of the requirements of MCL 380.1531(6) except for the literacy instruction requirements set forth in these rules, the superintendent of public instruction may issue to the individual a nonrenewable 1-year professional temporary teacher employment authorization.

History: 1979 AC; 2006 AAC; 2012 AAC; 2017 MR 21, Eff. Nov. 15, 2017.

PART 3. PROFESSIONAL TEACHING CERTIFICATE

R 390.1131 Rescinded.

History: Rescinded 1954 ACS 74, Eff. Jan. 19, 1973.

R 390.1132 Professional teaching certificate; before July 1, 2018.

Rule 32. (1) Beginning September 1, 2013, and before July 1, 2018, a professional teaching certificate may be issued to an applicant who presents evidence of completion of all of the following:

(a) At least 3 years of successful teaching as defined in R 390.1103.

(b) The reading requirements of section 1531(4) of 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1531(4).

(c) A minimum of 6 satisfactory college semester credit hours of literacy instruction for a certificate with elementary grade level authorization or a minimum of 3 satisfactory college semester credit hours of literacy instruction as appropriate to the discipline area for a certificate with secondary or PK-12 grade level authorization. This course credit may have been completed at any time before application for the professional teaching certificate.

(d) An education-related master's or higher degree earned at any time or, since the issue date of the most recent standard teaching certificate or renewal, any combination of education-related professional learning hours, as defined in R 390.1101, totaling 150 hours.

(2) An individual who meets the requirements of this rule may apply for the initial professional teaching certificate at any time.

(3) An initial professional teaching certificate expires 5 years from June 30 of the calendar year that the certificate is issued.

History: 1979 AC; 1981 AAC; 1989 AAC; 2006 AAC; 2012 AAC; 2017 MR 21, Eff. Nov. 15, 2017.

R 390.1133. Professional teaching certificate; beginning July 1, 2018.

Rule 33. (1) Beginning July 1, 2018, a professional teaching certificate may be issued to an applicant who presents evidence at the time of the application of satisfaction of all of the following:

(a) Met the successful teaching requirement as specified in section 1531j of 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1531j, and as defined in R 390.1103.

(b) Completed the reading requirements of section 1531(4) of 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1531(4).

(c) Completed a minimum of 6 satisfactory college semester credit hours of literacy instruction for a certificate with elementary grade level authorization or a minimum of 3 satisfactory college semester credit hours of literacy instruction as appropriate to the discipline area for a certificate with secondary or PK-12 grade level authorization. This course credit may have been completed at any time before application for the professional teaching certificate.

(d) Earned at any time an education-related master's or higher degree or, since the issue date of the most recent standard teaching certificate or renewal, completed any combination of education-related professional learning hours, as defined in R 390.1101, totaling 150 hours.

(2) An individual who meets the requirements of this rule may apply for the initial professional teaching certificate at any time.

(3) An initial professional teaching certificate expires 5 years from June 30 of the calendar year that the certificate is issued.

History: 1979 AC; 1981 AAC; 1989 AAC; 2006 AAC; 2017 MR 21, Eff. Nov. 15, 2017.

R 390.1134 Rescinded.

History: 1979 AC; 1986 AAC; 1989 AAC; 2006 AAC; 2012 AAC; 2017 MR 21, Eff. Nov. 15, 2017.

R 390.1135 Professional teaching certificate; renewal.

Rule 35. (1) A professional teaching certificate that has expired or will expire within the calendar year of application shall be renewed upon the applicant's completion since the issue date of the most recent professional teaching certificate or renewal of any combination of education-related professional learning hours, as defined in R 390.1101, totaling 150 hours.